

Message Text

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P 302147Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 165481

SUBJECT:OVERSEAS PRICE AND WAGE INCREASE FOR FY 1976

1. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB) DESIRES TO REVIEW IN DETAIL THE OVERSEAS WAGE AND PRICE DATA REFLECTED IN THE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR FY 1976 APPROPRIATIONS. OMB APPRECIATES THAT MANY POSTS ARE ANTICIPATING FY 1975 FUNDING DIFFICULTIES DUE TO CURRENT INFLATIONARY PRESSURE ON WAGE AND PRICES AND IS WILLING TO CONSIDER REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES BASED ON THE RESULTS OF AN ANALYSIS OF FIFTEEN SELECTED COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE. AUSTRIA IS ONE OF THE EUR COUNTRIES SELECTED, AND EMBASSY IS THEREFORE ASKED TO SUBMIT FOLLOWING INFO ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 5.

(A) PART I - GENERAL STATEMENT DESCRIBING ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCLUDING REVIEW OF PAST PRICE TRENDS, STATEMENT OF CURRENT PRICE REALITIES, AND FORECAST OF WAGE AND PRICE INCREASES OVER COMING EIGHTEEN MONTH PERIOD. STATEMENT SHOULD COVER BASIC ELEMENTS IN COST OF LIVING, I.E. FOOD, FUEL, RENTS, AND INFO ON WAGE RATES, AND COSTS OF ELECTRICITY, COMMUNICATIONS, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES. COMMENTARY DESCRIBING IMPACT OF WAGE AND PRICE TRENDS ON PER DIEM RATES AND QUARTER ALLOWANCES ALSO DESIRED.

(B) PART II - PRINCIPAL INDICES WHICH SUPPORT ECONOMIC OVER-

VIEW. THESE CAN BE FROM HOST COUNTRIES STATISTICS OR IMF,
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OECD, UN OR OTHER SIMILAR REPORTS. PLEASE INDICATE SOURCE

YOUR STATISTICS.

(C) PART III - ON BASIS INFO SUBMITTED IN PARTS I AND II, POST SHOULD INCLUDE REVISED DATA FOR COLUMNS 5 THRU 9 OF SCHEDULE S-5 AND COLUMNS 5 THRU 11 OF S-6 OF FY-1974/75 FIELD BUDGET ESTIMATES (6/30/73) TO SHOW ACTUAL FY-1974 PRICE INCREASES. POST NEED NOT SUBMIT REVISED DATA FOR OTHER COLUMNS OF S-5 AND S-6.

2. WHERE UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS ARE WARRANTED AND NOT REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL PRICE INDICES, EMBASSY ENCOURAGED MAKE OWN ESTIMATES OF ACTUAL RISE IN PRICES. WE NOTE THAT NUMBER OF BUDGET SUBMISSIONS HAVE FAILED TO MAKE PROPER ALLOWANCE FOR ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF INFLATION ON OPERATING COSTS.

3. PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED BUDGET PROJECTION FY-1975/76 - (6/30/74) FOR SCHEDULES S-5 THRU S-7 SHOULD BE REVISED, WHERE NECESSARY, TO CONFORM WITH DATA REQUESTED ABOVE. REVISED SCHEDULES S-5 THRU S-7 SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN POST'S REPLY TO THIS TELEGRAM. KISSINGER

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